



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.**



1848.



A. G. Hodges & Co.—State Printers.



SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# BOARD OF VISITORS

OF THE

Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind,

AND

CATALOGUE OF THE OFFICERS AND PUPILS,

**FOR THE YEAR 1848.**

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FRANKFORT:

A. G. HODGES & CO., STATE PRINTERS.  
1849.

## BOARD OF VISITORS.

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HON. WILLIAM F. BULLOCK, *President.*

SAMUEL CASSEDAY,

THEODORE S. BELL, M. D.,

EDWARD P. HUMPHREY, D. D.,

CHARLES J. CLARKE,

WILLIAM F. PETTET,

WILLIAM KENDRICK.

WILLIAM RICHARDSON, *Treasurer.*

BRYCE M. PATTEN, *Secretary.*

# OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

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BRYCE M. PATTEN, A. M.,  
DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL TEACHER.

OTIS PATTEN,  
TEACHER.

JOSEPH B. SMITH, A. B.,  
TEACHER.

WILLIAM D. GOTSHALL,  
TEACHER.

MRS. SARAH J. SMITH,  
ACTING MATRON.

ROBERT C. HEWETT, M. D.,  
PHYSICIAN.

# CATALOGUE OF PUPILS FOR THE YEAR 1848.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
Jonathan Sansberry,	Jefferson county.
Pearcy Price,	Louisville.
Owen Waters,	Maysville.
Walker Hulett,	Lexington.
Thomas Deboe,	Jessamine county.
Robert B. Green,	Louisville.
Albert R. Armstrong,	Montgomery county.
Swebston Vaughan,	Bullitt county.
John A. Metcalfe,	Louisville.
Robert N. Bradley,	Scott county.
Daniel J. Lyons,	Louisville.
Samuel N. Seay,	Washington county.
William Dickson,	Jefferson county.
Melville Malcom,	Georgetown.
Walter Robertson,	Barren county.
George W. Robertson,	Barren county.
James R. Golloday,	Trigg County.
Richard P. Diamond,	Lexington.
Thomas J. Jennings,	Caldwell county.
Albert G. H. Cobb,	Hopkins county.
Isaac P. Harper,	Covington.
Sarah J. Clarke,	Jefferson county.
Araminta A. Hodge,	Louisville.
Elressa J. Ruth,	Louisville.
Mary A. Gibson,	Louisville.
Mary Ogden,	Louisville.
Catharine J. Eastin,	Richmond.
Mary A. Mitchell,	New Orleans, La.
Joanna Diamond,	Lexington.
Ellen Emmons,	Louisville.
Mary J. Green,	Louisville.
Rachel M. Davis,	Taylorsville.
Martha J. Arnold,	Anderson county.
Rosanna Searcy,	Anderson county.
Arzelia E. Parker,	Lexington.
Julia Taylor,	Bath county.
Sarah J. Nash,	Boyle county.
Mary A. Edward,	Muhlenburg county.

# COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

## PRIMARY CLASS—FIRST YEAR.

Reading,  
Arithmetic,  
Spelling,  
Geography,  
Vocal Music.

## SECOND CLASS—SECOND YEAR.

Reading,  
Spelling,  
Arithmetic,  
Geography,  
English Grammar,  
Music, (optional.)

## MIDDLE CLASS—THIRD YEAR.

Moral Philosophy,  
English Grammar,  
Natural History,  
Writing,  
Mathematics and Music, (optional.)

## JUNIOR CLASS—FOURTH YEAR.

History,  
Composition and Declamation,  
Rhetoric,  
Physiology and Anatomy,  
Natural Theology,  
Mathematics, Languages and Music, (optional.)

## SENIOR CLASS—FIFTH YEAR.

Natural Philosophy,  
History,  
Astronomy,  
Constitution of the United States,  
Mineralogy, Geology, Chemistry and Music, (optional.)



## ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

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Applications for admission must be addressed to the Director; but no person who is under six or over fifteen years of age, can be admitted without a special vote of the Board of Visitors.

Candidates for admission must be of good mental capacity, and must present certificates from some respectable physician, of incurable blindness, and of freedom from all offensive and infectious diseases; and they must furnish satisfactory testimonials of unexceptionable moral character.

Every application must also state the name, residence and Post Office address of the applicant; the year, month, day, and place of his birth; the names of his parents, and whether they are living; the pecuniary circumstances of the parents or other relations who have the care of the applicant; at what age and by what means the blindness was produced; whether it is total; and whether there are other instances of blindness in the same family, or among their relatives.

Indigent children, resident in this State, will be received and educated at the expense of the State. In addition to all the above requirements, they must furnish certificates from some magistrate, or other well known respectable citizen, that they are inhabitants of Kentucky, and that their parents and immediate relations are unable to defray the expenses of their education.

Both State and private pupils, must come provided with a full supply of comfortable clothing, which must be marked with the name of the owner, and renewed, from time to time, as may be necessary. Traveling expenses to and from the Institution, must also be paid by the pupils or their friends.

The annual term of study commences on the 20th day of September, and closes on the 15th of July. It is important that the pupils be present at the commencement of the term, remain till it closes, and then return to their homes, and spend the vacation with their friends.

The annual expenses for paying pupils for board, tuition, washing, and music, are *one hundred dollars*. If the pupil remains at the Institution during the vacation, an additional charge of twenty dollars is made. Payments must be made quarterly in advance.



## ANNUAL REPORT

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TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION :

The Board of Visitors of the Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind, respectfully present their

### SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

At the commencement of the year just terminated, the number of pupils was thirty-one, and eight have since been admitted, making the entire number during the year thirty-eight. One has left on account of illness caused by exposure on her journey to the Institution; another remains at home, under surgical treatment, with the hope of improving her vision; and four who had made such attainments in their respective studies as they proposed to themselves on entering, have left the Institution, without a regular discharge.

One pupil who, early in the year was dismissed for insubordination, having furnished evidence of reformation, has been re-admitted on probation.

We are aware that there are serious objections to reinstating, indiscriminately, pupils that have been expelled; still we believe that, during the infancy of our Institution, cases may occasionally occur, in which it will be advisable to reinstate a pupil who gives clear and undoubted evidence of penitence for past misconduct, and of thorough reformation. As long as we continue to receive pupils of all ages from six to twenty-five years, most of whom, before their admission, enjoy only the very scantiest opportunities for physical, mental, and moral culture, their teachers will find occasion for the exercise of a very unusual degree of patience and benevolence. And if, notwithstanding all their efforts to reclaim the wayward, regard for the interest of the whole school require their expulsion, the same benevolence will follow them, and if they give evidence of reformation, will probably, in some cases, suggest that they be re-admitted, provided the improvement and harmony of the other pupils will not be thereby endangered. The three pupils, who have at various times been dismissed from this Institution for misconduct, have, after longer or shorter intervals, been re-admitted. One of them has become a very exemplary pupil. In the case of another, the reformation was only temporary; in a short time after his return to the Institution, he relapsed into his former bad habits, and the Board were again under the necessity of dismissing him. The third was re-admitted too recently to furnish any ground for confidence, as to the result of the experiment in his case, though there is reason to hope that it will be favorable.

The entire number of pupils received into the Institution, since it was first opened for the reception of pupils, is sixty-one; thirty-six males, and twenty-five females. Of these, seventeen were born blind; the blindness of forty-four being caused by disease or accident.

Thus it will be seen, that no inconsiderable number of the blind youth of Kentucky have been gathered into the school, where they are receiving such training as we hope will qualify them to earn an honorable and independent livelihood.

Efforts have been continued the last year, to increase the usefulness of the Institution, by extending a knowledge of its existence among the people of the State. By these efforts, not only are many of the blind induced to avail themselves of the privileges of the Institution, but we are collecting important statistical information with regard to the blind of the State. It has been ascertained that the United States census furnishes no very reliable statistics respecting the unfortunate, and especially, the blind, in most of the States of the Union. For correct information as to these classes, each State must rely upon other means. And although there is reason to believe that the census of Kentucky is more correct than that of most other States, with respect to the blind, yet, in many of the counties of this State, the actual number of blind persons is found to differ widely from the last census. For instance, the county of Jefferson, in which the Institution is located, and which, according to the last census, contained only *seven* blind persons of all ages, has already sent to the Institution no less than *eighteen* pupils. When all parts of the State have been as carefully explored, many similar discrepancies will probably be found to exist. We would therefore respectfully suggest that an act be passed by the General Assembly, requiring the County Commissioners to ascertain, annually, and report to the Secretary of State, the number of blind, deaf and dumb, and insane persons, in their respective counties, with the name and age of each. And in this connection, we cannot refrain from again calling the attention of the benevolent in all portions of the State to the importance of their aid in searching out and gathering into the Institution, the neglected and hapless blind, scattered over our widely extended territory. In this work, the most humble, and the most influential citizen may alike engage, and often, with but little effort, do much toward rendering the children of misfortune happy, by placing them in this school of industrious and cheerful blind youth, where all the means of instruction are adapted to their peculiar condition. Some of the pupils who have been sought out in their helplessness, and brought to the Institution, regard those by whom they have been thus befriended, as their greatest benefactors. Shall not scores of other blind youth in the State, to whom life is every hour a burden, be made, by similar means, equally grateful and happy? Who would not prize above all earthly price, the gratitude of a blind child, rescued from ignorance and wretchedness, through his instrumentality?

The health of the pupils, with few exceptions, has been unusually good, during the last year. Dr. Hewett continues to discharge, with perfect satisfaction to all interested, the duties of Physician to the Institution; and the Board hope to be able to retain him in that capacity. For his remarkably faithful, and, to a large extent, uncompensated labors, the Institution is under the highest obligations.

In the intellectual department of the Institution, the same general course has been pursued as heretofore, with the usual gratifying results.

The course of study pursued by candidates for graduation, is appended to this report. In several of the studies enumerated in this course, in-



struction is imparted to the pupils in familiar oral lectures. It is somewhat difficult to arrange a course of instruction adapted to the various ages, capacities, and circumstances of the pupils; and yet, in an Institution of this kind, a systematic classification is peculiarly necessary, as so much is to be accomplished, and so short a period allowed, in which to accomplish it. In the short term of five years, we are under the necessity of endeavoring to impart to pupils, who have never been favored with any previous training, a good English education, and to teach them the art and science of music, and a mechanical trade. To effect all these objects, with the present means of instruction, the most economical classification is demanded, and yet so greatly do the pupils differ in age and mental capacity, at the time of their admission, that a desirable classification appears impracticable. It is hoped, as the character of the Institution becomes more extensively known, that parents of blind children will generally place them in school at an early age. When this shall be done, the labor of the teachers will be much lighter, and far more effective; the improvement of the pupils will be greatly enhanced, and a larger proportion of them, it is believed, will leave the school, at the end of their course, qualified to earn their support, with honor to themselves, and benefit to the community.

The cultivation of the moral powers of the pupils continues to receive the careful and constant attention of the officers of the Institution, and the improvement of most of them, in this respect, has been highly satisfactory.

In the musical department, the pupils continue to make commendable progress. By the liberality of the General Assembly, at the last session, the Board have been able to furnish much greater facilities than heretofore, for the cultivation of the musical powers of the pupils: indeed, the Kentucky Institution now offers, in this department, advantages hardly inferior to those of any of the older Institutions in the United States; and the more rapid improvement of the pupils gives pleasing evidence, that the privileges are properly appreciated. In addition to the other instruments procured during the last year, the Board have purchased an organ of unusually fine tone, and of sufficient power; and several of the pupils are receiving instructions thereon, and give promise of becoming skillful organists.

In the mechanical department, the same branches of handicraft have been pursued, as in the previous year; brushes being the principal articles manufactured by the boys, and a variety of fancy articles, of silk, worsted, and beads, by the girls.

Throughout the entire year, the male pupils labored under the disadvantages alluded to in the last annual report, with respect to room; a small room in the basement being the only one that could be devoted to the mechanical operations. We have, however, with a portion of the fund granted by the General Assembly, at its last session, purchased a lot of ground, and erected thereon a small workshop, which, though not adequate to the wants of this department, will enable us to carry it on with much more comfort to the pupils, and profit to the Institution, than heretofore. We regret that the scantiness of the funds at our disposal compelled us to erect the workshop on so small a scale, that we shall be under the necessity of confining the mechanical operations of the male pu-

pils, almost entirely to the manufacture of brushes, until larger accommodations can be furnished. Whenever the shop shall be sufficiently enlarged, not only may this department be rendered more profitable, by the introduction of other branches of labor, but the interest of the pupils may be greatly promoted, by offering them a greater variety in the choice of a trade, thereby affording them an opportunity to consult, to some extent, their different tastes.

A larger amount of work has been performed by the pupils the last year, than in any previous one; and the interest in this department is constantly increasing. The female pupils, in addition to the fancy articles made by them, have done a considerable amount of plain sewing for the Institution, of which no account has been taken; so that the actual amount of their work is greater than appears in the statement of the profit of the work department, hereto appended.

One of the four pupils who have left the Institution, since the date of our last report, deserves, on one account, special notice. At the age of twenty-five years, without even an ordinary English education, he was, by an accidental explosion, while engaged in blasting rocks, deprived of both eyes, and a considerable portion of his right hand, including three fingers, the remaining finger being also badly injured. Deprived, by this terrible calamity, of all hope of earning a support by any ordinary means, he applied for admission into the Institution, though without any very strong expectation on his part, or that of his friends, that one so dreadfully mutilated, could be much benefited by the privileges of the school. Although beyond the age at which it is customary to admit pupils, he was received into the Institution, where he remained a little more than two years, during which time he not only learned to read the Bible, but gained such a knowledge of a mechanical trade, as would, he thought, enable him to earn his own livelihood; and he has recently commenced business on his own account, in the vicinity of Louisville; and there is reason to hope that, from being such a burden to himself and his friends, as caused him to desire death, rather than life, he will become, by the aid thus received from the Institution, an independent, as well as cheerful man. Such is the work which the Institution is accomplishing; converting the helpless and wretched blind, into industrious, useful, and happy citizens.

The following statement exhibits the profit of the mechanical department the last year:

	Dr.	
To value of manufactured articles on hand, Jan. 1, 1848,	\$ 178 14	
To value of unmanufactured stock on hand, Jan. 1, 1848,	174 75	
To cost of raw materials during the year 1848, - - -	140 50	
To salary of teacher of handicraft, - - - -	150 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 643 39
	Cr.	
By value of manufactured articles on hand, Jan. 1, 1849,	\$ 375 84	
By value of unmanufactured stock on hand, Jan. 1, 1849,	195 84	
By sales during the year 1848, - - - - -	136 10	
	<hr/>	707 78
Balance in favor of the department, - - - -		\$ 64 39



The entire receipts of the Institution, for the year ending January 1, 1849, have arisen from the following sources :

Special appropriation by the General Assembly, at the last Session, - - - - -	\$ 5,000, 00
From Treasury of State, for beneficiaries, - , -	3,113 33
From paying pupils, (T. Deboe, \$ 11, J. M. Heady, \$ 25.)	36 00
Sales of articles made by pupils, - - - - -	136 10
Donation of Mr. I. I. Keely, - - - - -	70 00
Balance in hands of Treasurer, at date of last report, -	4 48
	<hr/>
	\$ 8,359 91

The expenditures of the same year have been as follows :

Salaries of officers, - - - - -	\$ 2,238 08
Wages of servants and seamstress, - - -	476 93
Provisions, groceries, &c., - - - - -	1,000 12
Fuel, - - - - -	333 76
Cow, and provender, - - - - -	30 15
Cooking stove, - - - - -	75 00
Books, stationery, and printing, - - -	83 78
Furniture, dry goods, cutlery, stove, - -	207 89
Raw materials for work department, - -	140 59
Rent of piano forte, and repairs of instruments,	28 27
Expenses of travelling, and exhibition, - -	132 47
Insurance and repairs, - - - - -	51 87
Miscellaneous expenses, - - - - -	37 06
Cost of work-shop, and stove for same, - -	833 50
Organ, - - - - -	790 00
Two piano fortes, and bass drum, - - -	475 00
Lot of ground, - - - - -	650 00
Balance due B. M. Patten, at date of last report,	194 42
	<hr/>
	7,778 89

Leaving in hands of Treasurer, - - - - - \$581 02

The thanks of the Board of Visitors are tendered to the publishers of the KENTUCKY YEOMAN, LOUISVILLE JOURNAL, (daily,) MORNING COURIER, (daily,) PRESBYTERIAN HERALD, CATHOLIC ADVOCATE, and STAR IN THE WEST, for copies of their respective papers during the last year.

It is hoped that these favors will be continued to the Institution, as these periodicals are read to the pupils daily, and are to them a source of great pleasure as well as valuable information.

In closing this report, the Board of Visitors would earnestly commend to the General Assembly, the Institution in all its interests. And as the year for which the Institution was committed to our care is about to expire, we may be permitted again to recommend a liberal support of this school for the afflicted children of the Commonwealth.

The condition of the blind is, at best, a most pitiable one, and one that the benevolent every where are disposed to commiserate, and, if possible, alleviate : and we feel assured, if an expression could be had from the mass of the people of Kentucky, that there would be an unequalled majority in favor of a liberal endowment of this Institution.

Wherever we have had an opportunity to exhibit to the people the character, object, and success of the school, but one sentiment has been expressed as to the propriety and importance of affording to it the most liberal support; and the almost entire unanimity with which appropriations have been made to it, furnishes gratifying evidence, that the members of the General Assembly are faithful exponents of the benevolence of the people. But, although the Legislature has, in no instance, refused to afford aid to the Institution, when appealed to in its behalf, the resources within the control of the Board, are by no means sufficient to sustain the school in such a manner, as to confer honor upon the State, and offer to the blind advantages equal to those found in similar Institutions in some other States. Should nothing be realized from the "Louisville and Portland Rail Road," of which there appears, at present, but little hope, it will doubtless be necessary by some other provisions, to supply the deficiency caused by the failure of that enterprise.

Whatever funds have been intrusted to the Board of Visitors hitherto, have been faithfully devoted to the good of the blind; and all that may be entrusted to our successors, will, without doubt, be as carefully consecrated to the same object.

The Board of Visitors are merely the stewards of the State, and it is desirable that they should be enabled to place this Institution on a level with any similar Institution in the Union.

Kentucky's name is ever associated in the minds of her people, with all that is noble and generous—much, therefore, is expected from her, with respect to her benevolent Institutions; and we trust that these expectations, so honorable to her, will never be disappointed.

Since the foregoing report was prepared, the Board of Visitors have received the annual report of the Superintendent\* of Public Instruction to the General Assembly of Kentucky; and they regret to find that officer has made representations of the state of the Kentucky Institution for the Blind, which are calculated to injure the usefulness of an Institution devoted to philanthropic objects, and which has thus far enjoyed the confidence, and commanded the admiration of the people of Kentucky.

The Board of Visitors were appointed by the Commonwealth for the purpose of carrying into effect the wishes of the General Assembly, by providing suitable means of instruction for the blind of Kentucky; and, in the performance of that duty, they have done all that zeal, industry, and devotion to the cause enabled them to do, with the means placed at their disposal. They organized the Institution, and gave it all the time and attention they could bestow upon it. One of the members of the Board, at the request of the other members, undertook the immediate superintendence of the Institution, which duties he continued to perform, without salary, and at no inconsiderable sacrifice of his own business, for nearly two years, when, at the solicitation of the Board, he relinquished the charge of a Literary Institution, which had yielded him about two thousand dollars annually, and devoted his entire time to the

\* Rev. Robert J. Breckinridge, D. D.



Institution for the Blind, at the sacrifice of nearly a thousand dollars every year.

As soon as the number of pupils demanded a larger building than the Visitors were able to rent, they determined to purchase a lot for the purpose of erecting a suitable building upon it for the wants of the school. A desirable lot, on Broadway, was accordingly selected, with a front of 140 feet, (since increased to 170,) and a depth of 400 feet. This they purchased, and erected thereon a large, commodious, and healthy edifice, and furnished it in good order, for the remarkably low sum of about ten thousand dollars. The committees of the Legislature, that personally inspected the property, expressed surprise that property so valuable could have been secured for the small sum it actually cost.

The Board of Visitors have, in every way within their power, endeavored to discharge, with zeal and fidelity, the responsibilities entrusted to them by the General Assembly; and they have been cheered in their arduous labors by the approbation and confidence, not only of the representatives of the people, but of the people themselves.

The people of Louisville, who know the capacities of the Board of Visitors, have been liberal and constant in their support of the Institution. Under the charter of the Institution, granted by the Legislature, an obligation was imposed on the people of Louisville, to contribute funds sufficient to put the school into actual operation, before one dollar should be received from the State. This unusual requisition was cheerfully and liberally met by the citizens of Louisville; and fully did they acquit themselves of the duty. All classes of citizens gave a hearty co-operation in the benevolent work. Mechanics gave their work; merchants, their goods and money; coal-dealers supplied fuel; the ladies of the city were very active in the exercise of their charities; and we have already reported to the Legislature the fact, that one of the Physicians of the city, not only performed his duties as a member of the Board of Visitors, but attended every case of sickness among the pupils for several years, without charge to the State. And, during the first six years of the existence of the Institution, the pupils, whenever they needed medical aid, received the prompt and careful attention of some of the best Physicians of the city, without any expense to the Institution or State.

In referring to the liberal spirit manifested by the citizens of Louisville towards this Institution, we cannot refrain from an act of justice to John I. Jacobs, Esq., who sold to the Board of Visitors the ground on which the Institution stands, in consideration of its philanthropic objects, 'at less than half the price his ground was yielding him along side of it. He thus liberally made a donation of between \$1,500, and \$2,000, to the Institution. And the people of Louisville, generally, have cherished and sustained the Institution in every way in their power, with a liberal hand and a cheerful spirit.

The intimation in the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, that the situation of the Institution is unhealthy, at certain seasons of the year, and undesirable, is calculated to have an injurious effect upon the public mind.

The Board of Visitors have been endeavoring, by all proper means, to secure the confidence of the public, and to have the unfortunate blind children of the State placed under the benign influences of the Institu-



tion, which has been established for their benefit, by the munificence of the people of Kentucky. The effect of the statement of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is, to create distrust and apprehension, and therefore demanded the notice it has received from the Board of Visitors.

It is true that the Institution is in the "suburbs of Louisville;" but the improvements of the city are so rapidly extending in that direction, and even beyond the Institution, that it is probable that it will very soon be entirely surrounded by a thriving and respectable population. It is convenient, by means of paved streets, to the whole city; and if a sufficient quantity of the adjacent land could be purchased, it is believed that a more eligible site for such an Institution, could not be obtained within the limits of the city. With a portion of the fund granted by the General Assembly, at its last session, the Board of Visitors purchased, for the purpose of erecting a work-shop thereon, a lot adjoining the Institution on the east, and every reasonable effort has been made to procure additional ground on the west, but it has been found impracticable to do so, at present, on satisfactory terms.

In the immediate vicinity of the Institution for the Blind, the Jesuits purchased ground for the erection of a great College, which they were ordered by their superiors to abandon, for want of funds. The fact that those intelligent gentlemen selected a site for their college, somewhat in the rear of the Institution for the Blind, is some evidence that the locality is not so open to the objections of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as that gentleman imagines.

High, airy, and well ventilated buildings are frequently healthy in localities, in which low and badly ventilated dwellings are sickly; and the Institution for the Blind is of the former class.

The land on the west of the Institution is annually cultivated; the land on the south is neither marshy nor malarial, and a number of dwelling houses have been erected on the eastern side of the Institution, and immediately along side of it. In front of the Institution, Broadway has been graded and paved, for which the Mayor and Council of Louisville liberally paid, instead of taxing the State with the expense.

What then are the sources of the unhealthiness of this site? Why should many of the citizens of Louisville select this region for the erection of their dwelling houses, if it is so very obnoxious?

In vindication of their judgment in selecting the site complained of, for the Institution, the Board of Visitors confidently appeal to the records of the Institution, as exhibited in their annual reports. Not a death has ever occurred among the pupils of the Institution; there is no unusual, intractable disease among them; nor have they been more sickly in the present locality than they were when the Institution was located at one of the healthiest points in the heart of the city; and the Board have been gratified in finding, that the health of new pupils is almost invariably improved, soon after their admission into the Institution. These facts should be conclusive.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction states in his report, that "the Institution for the Blind was originally endowed out of the funds of the Board of Education, and *considerable sums, from the same fund, have been, from time to time, given to that Institution, by the State.*" This is an error. There has been but one small appropriation of \$ 3,500, made to

this Institution, out of the fund referred to, in addition to the original endowment, instead of "considerable sums from time to time."

Again, the Superintendent says : "This original act makes it the duty of the Board of Education to appoint, annually, the Visitors of the Institution for the Blind, and it makes it the duty of those Visitors, to report, annually, to the Board of Education. I have seen that the duty required of the Board of Education has been performed ; but the Board of Education has not received from the Visitors of the Institution, as far as I am informed, any report, either this year or last ; nor am I aware of any change in the law requiring such report to be made to them."

We would respectfully refer the Superintendent to "changes in the law," of which he seems not to be aware :

The third section of an act of the General Assembly of Kentucky, approved February 8, 1845, is in these words : "The President and Board of Visitors shall, in all cases, require satisfactory proof, by affidavit or otherwise, of the residence of any applicant, who may hereafter apply for the benefit of said Institution ; and in every annual report, the names and residences of the pupils, setting forth specifically, the amount paid by each, *shall be reported to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.*" This appears to be a material change in the law.

Again, the second section of an act, approved February 23, 1846, says : "That it shall be the duty of the President and Board of Visitors of said Institution, *to report in the next annual report, to the General Assembly,*" &c.

The Board of Visitors have endeavored to comply with all these requisitions, by making, annually, a report to the General Assembly, addressed invariably to the Board of Education, and whenever the President of that Board could be found at the seat of Government, their report has been delivered to him, "to be laid before the General Assembly." Only one manuscript copy of the report has usually been sent to Frankfort, and it being the imperative duty of the Board of Visitors to report to the General Assembly, their report has, in the absence of the President of the Board of Education, been presented to the General Assembly by some other officer.

We may also state, that a printed copy of the last annual report of this Board was, during the last session of the Legislature, mailed at Frankfort to the address of the President of the Board of Education.

But, although without design on the part of the Board of Visitors, the Board of Education did not receive the report of last year, it is a source of gratulation that it was received by the General Assembly of the State, a large number of copies printed at the public expense, for general distribution among the people, and its recommendations generously complied with, by an appropriation of \$5,000, from the public Treasury.

To supply so far as it can now be done, any omission of duty heretofore, a copy of the last report, printed by order of the General Assembly, is herewith furnished to the Board of Education.

The Board of Visitors have ever felt a lively interest in the success of the Institution entrusted to their care. Several of the present members have been in the Board from its organization to the present time ; and have thus shown their devotion to this great interest. The interrup-



tions in their business, the sacrifice of time, and the repeated calls made upon them by the wants of the Institution, have been cheerfully endured under the consciousness that they were performing a great public duty. These original members have remained in the Board, not in obedience to their desires, but in accordance with the conviction, that, having been there in the commencement of the Institution, their continued presence gave a guaranty to the people, favorable to the school. These members bear cheerful testimony to the zeal and fidelity of those gentlemen who have entered more recently upon their duties as members of the Board.

Nor can we close this report without bearing testimony to the excellence of the officers, who have charge of the "interior affairs" of the Institution. We feel confident that no similar Institution in the Union is entrusted to better officers. They are the praise of all who have had an opportunity of judging of their labors.

We commend the school to the General Assembly, with the confident assurance, that justice will be rendered to an institution that is a public blessing, and a monument to the philanthropic and enlightened liberality of the General Assembly of Kentucky.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM F. BULLOCK,  
T. S. BELL,  
CHAS. J. CLARK,  
E. P. HUMPHREY,  
WILLIAM KENDRICK,  
SAMUEL CASSEDAY.

} *Board of Visitors.*

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,

LOUISVILLE, *February 3, 1849.*



